(c) the balance number of sites where construction work has to be taken up in hand; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Life of bridge is not fixed merely on basis of age but on its physical condition.

(b) On an average 500 bridges are rebuilt/rehabilitated/strengthened/ regirdered/extended yearly. As on 1.4.2001 more than 2500 bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening/regirdering etc.

(c) and (d) Rebuilding/rehabilitation of bridges is decided on the basis of physical condition assessed annually though inspections and is a continuing process.

Delayed rail projects

3624. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects were under construction in the country till April, 2001;

(b) if so, the total number thereof, indicating the number of projects running behind their original schedule and since when; and

(c) the percentage increase in construction cost of each project, indicating the reasons for cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways has a large shelf of ongoing Railway projects and in April 2001, 278 projects were under construction pertaining to New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Metropolitan Transport Projects and Railway Electrification plan heads, with an anticipated cost of over Rs. 45,000 crores. The time over run can be calculated in those cases where the time schedule for completion of the project with matching availability of resources can be planned and assured at the time of taking up of the project. In case of Railway projects, the plan size is determined annually and as such, no estimation of time over run is feasible. Progress of these projects is dependent on availability of funds from year to year.

(c) This would be known as and when project gets completed depending upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Theft and corruption cases in Nagpur Railway Division

3625. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have investigated into the cases of theft and corruption involving crores of rupees, taking place in Nagpur Division of Central Railway, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the higher officials of GRP have been found involved in the cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Disciplinary action has been initiated against five members of RPF for corrupt activities and negligence.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Trains and facilities at Saharanpur Railway Station

3626. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Mail and Express trains dealt with on Main Platform No. 4, during the 24 hours, at Saharanpur Railway Station;

(b) what are the specific reasons for not placing/starting of trains like Shatabdis and Superfast trains on Main Platform No. 4, at the above station.

(c) whether it is a fact that passenger facilities like bathroom, retiring room, waiting room, refreshment room, catering stall, etc. have been provided at the above station; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?